

Wisdom On The Way – 12th November
“Greetings Pilgrim”



On 12th November we met at the Box Moor Trust near Hemel Hempstead. Tony Mealing spoke about his travels on the Camino to Santiago de Compostela and other pilgrim routes, about their history and, very movingly, about his personal journey.

*One more step on the way,
One step just one more step,
For truths not spoken,
For tears not shed,
For broken dreams lost in time once promised
and now forgot.
One more step,
For friendships lost and found in time's dawn
mist,
And for silences stolen at dawn's first kiss,
For pain inflicted known or not,
For heartbreaks given
To those we loved and some we lost.
Just one more step,
For hands offered lift a friend,
For lips not used to kiss and mend.
Lord, just one more step,
And when I turn back and look away,
Forgive my arrogance and help me pray, that I
will now look forward
And always say,
I walked these steps the pilgrim's way.*

PILGRIMAGE

Not, for me, the journey on foot,
mile after mile, day after day
towards a known destination
with a desired goal
along rough paths, uphill and down,
come rain or shine.

I get in my car, head south
until I meet the sea,
where I gaze and gaze
across the wide ocean
to the far horizon holding up the breadth
and weight of enormous sky.

I breathe in the immensity of God,
His eternity, His beauty,
His gentleness (on calm days)
His power (on wild days),
His unlimited I-AMness
His ageless faithfulness.

The breeze or gale-force wind
imbues me with His Spirit,
calms or stirs me as I need.
Wavelets tickle my toes with His love,
spray stings my face with His grace.
I know myself held and cherished.

- Joy Tobler, written on 12th November -

A very warm welcome

to two new Companions, *Melanie Carroll* in
Lincoln and *Gudrun Myers* in Sheffield.



Still Waters – CF North

In December, CF North had an invitation to 'Sweat Your Prayers' with Christina Beardsley.



Christina, a Church of England priest, has worked in parochial ministry for 22 years and healthcare chaplaincy for 16 years. Her working life has mirrored the Church's ongoing struggles over the full inclusion of LGBT people, of which she is a passionate advocate and activist. The evening was based on her journey to integrate her sexuality, gender identity (as a trans woman) and spirituality. Dance and movement have been significant in her exploration, and we were invited to engage our bodies in prayer. There was 'stillness', one of the five rhythms identified by Tina's heroine, the late Gabrielle Roth, who helped so many people to integrate body and spirit, and thereby to sweat their prayers.

JIM COTTER TABLE

In the chapel at St Mark's, Broomhill, Sheffield, there is now a small octagonal table. This used to belong to Jim Cotter, who used it for communion services at home. St Marks were asked to care for it, so they are using the table for some of their weekday communion services.

This Long Night

*A blessing of the dark sky be yours,
of the white moon
and the faraway stars.*

*A blessing of the cold earth be yours,
of the hoarfrost
and the drifts of snow.*

*A blessing of a warm hearth be yours,
of a lighted fire
and a loving home.*

*A blessing of the Trinity be yours:
Maker,
Storyteller,
Holy Spirit,*

*this long night
and for evermore.*

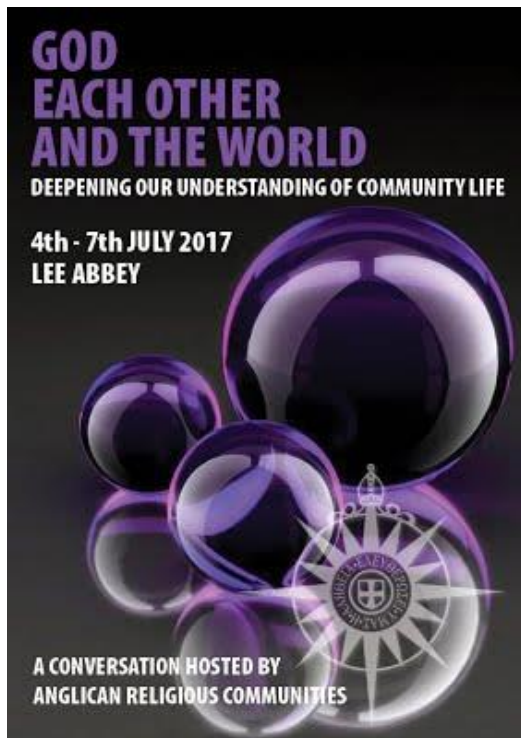
From 'This Long Night' by Ruth Burgess (Wild Goose publication, Iona Community members and others).



"May your own Advent journey, and your life's journey, be guided by unexpected lights along the roadside that refuse to be extinguished. May it be accompanied by melodies celebrating that which has not yet arrived."

'Lighted Windows: Advent Reflections for a World in Waiting' by Margaret Silf. Sent in by Valerie North.

Events



A conference at Lee Abbey from 4 to 7 July 2017 for members of (mostly Anglican) religious communities, old and new.

What is the basic DNA, the common vocation that draws together people who have a desire for God, a longing to give themselves fully to a simpler way of living, growing together through daily struggle in love and from that place to reach out to the world? How do we grow in authentic Christian Community living enriched by both tradition and creativity?

This is the theme we will be exploring through worship, theological reflection, conversation and prayer. We look forward to sharing together in the stunning surroundings of Lee Abbey, a place of community where both the peaceful beauty and the disturbing power of Creation are a part of daily life.

Please check room availability before booking.

The number of participants from each community is capped so that we can have participants from as many communities as possible.

We are also applying quotas to different types of community.

Historic - traditional communities recognised by the Advisory Council

Modern - newer communities some of which may be acknowledged by the Advisory Council

Emerging - communities which are in the process of starting or which have been open for only a few years

Do any Companions wish to go and represent Contemplative Fire? As you may recall Philip, Ali Dorey and Elaine Wilkins went to Whitby last time and experienced connecting with other Anglican Communities old and new. Elaine has booked to go – is anyone else interested?



Above the Main House, Lee Abbey



**The World Community
for Christian Meditation**

wccm.org

Dear Friends,

Please visit our new website about Bonnevaux. It gives new perspectives and information about it as a centre for meditation, retreat and a force for peace and harmony in our needy world today.

Visit here: www.bonnevauxwccm.org

The website describes the vision, with a gallery of images to convey something of its beauty, development plans, news, comments on the project from meditators around the world - and the easy to use donation page. On the homepage you can follow the progress of the Bonnevaux fund. There is also a short video about the vision of Bonnevaux: [watch here](#)

With love and thank you for sharing in the vision of Bonnevaux.

Laurence Freeman OSB

The World Community for Christian Meditation
Myddelton Square, London EC1R 1XX



Following the recent announcement of the closure of Wrekin Trust, you are warmly invited to join us at Hawkwood College, the spiritual home of the trust, on **Tuesday 21 March 2017** to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of the Trust over its 46 years.

The day will include a presentation by **David Lorimer**, President of Wrekin Trust on Sir George's work and legacy, and by **Sharon Clancy** of Nottingham University on the development of Adult Education while Sir George was Warden at Attingham Park and which led to the formation of Wrekin Trust.

We will share details of two Legacy Projects - ***Lighting Fires: Promoting Spiritual Development in Young People*** and the ***Albion Website: Exploring the Roots of British Spirituality*** and there will also be audio and video footage of Sir George and plenty of opportunity to share stories and reminiscences.

Date: Tues 21 March 2017, 10.30- 4.30.

Cost: £30.00 - to include morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.

For those wishing to stay overnight Hawkwood is offering a rate of £42.00 bed and breakfast for single occupancy, or £25.00 per person shared occupancy and £12.50 for light supper.

To book online: visit Hawkwood's website [HERE](#)

To book in person or to find out more information: please contact Hawkwood directly on 01453 759034 or

Email: info@hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7QW

News from Contemplative Fire Canada



NEWSLETTER

Your Monthly Update



Healing & Light

Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 7pm
St. John's York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Drive.
Contemplative Fire's special Christmas service dedicated to bringing more light and healing into our inner and outer world.



Spirit Cinema

Thursday, January 26, 2017. Refreshments 6:15, Start 7pm. St. John's York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Drive
This will be our first film of 2017! Featured is the multi-award winning documentary by Velcrow Ripper that focuses on Spiritual Activism. For movie trailer click here -> [Learn More Now](#)

To receive the Contemplative Fire Canada newsletter, contact Manuela:
info@contemplativefire.ca